



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

OCE 16-001

**Dear Colleague Letter: Directorate for Geosciences (GEO), Division of Ocean Sciences (OCE), Physical Oceanography Program - Employment Opportunity for Associate Program Director/Program Director Position (Open Until Filled)**

---

February 26, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

The Division of Ocean Sciences (OCE) within the Directorate of Geosciences (GEO) announces a nationwide search for a rotator position in the Physical Oceanography Program. We will consider filling the position at either the Associate Program Director or the Program Director level and will determine your qualifications from the submitted application.

Formal consideration of interested applications will begin **April 4, 2016** and will continue until a selection is made.

Program Directors have an unparalleled opportunity and responsibility to ensure NSF-funded research is at the forefront of advancing fundamental knowledge. In support of that, Program Directors are responsible for extensive interaction with academic research communities and industry, as well as interaction with other Federal agencies that may lead to development of interagency collaborations. Within this context, Program Directors solicit, receive and review research and education proposals, make funding recommendations, administer awards, and undertake interaction with research communities in these fields. They are also responsible for service to Foundation-wide activities and initiatives that together accomplish NSF's strategic goals to: 1) Transform the Frontiers of Science and Engineering, 2) Stimulate Innovation and Address Societal Needs through Research and Education, and 3) Excel as a Federal Science Agency. The position requires a commitment to high standards of intellectualism and ethical conduct, a considerable breadth of interest, receptivity to new ideas, a strong sense of fairness, good judgment, and a high degree of personal integrity.

**Qualifications:** This specific position requires an individual with broad expertise and demonstrated experience in physical oceanography. Knowledge of estuarine and/or coastal dynamics is desired. Applicants must have earned a Ph.D. in the area of physical oceanography or a related discipline such as environmental fluid dynamics, plus at least six or more years of successful research, research administration and/or managerial experience pertinent to the position after award of the Ph.D. The position requires effective oral and written communication skills; familiarity with NSF programs and activities is highly desirable. The incumbent is expected to function effectively both as an individual within the specific NSF program and as a member of crosscutting and interactive teams. The incumbent must also demonstrate a capability to work across government agencies to promote NSF activities and to leverage program funds through interagency collaborations.

The Program Director position recruited under this announcement may be filled under the following rotational program:

**Intergovernmental Personnel Assignment (IPA) Act:** Individuals eligible for an IPA assignment with a Federal agency include employees of State and local government agencies or institutions of higher education, Indian tribal governments, and other eligible organizations in instances where such assignments would be of mutual benefit to the organizations involved. Initial assignments under IPA provisions may be made for a period up to two years, with a possible extension for up to an additional two-year period. The individual remains an employee of the home institution and NSF provides the negotiated funding toward the assignee's salary and benefits. Initial IPA assignments are made for a one-year period and may be extended by mutual agreement. Please see the link for more information: <http://www.nsf.gov/careers/rotator/ipa.jsp>

**Visiting Scientist, Engineer or Educator (VSEE) Appointment:** Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Visiting Scientists are on non-paid leave status from their home institution and placed on the NSF payroll. NSF withholds Social Security taxes and pays the home institution's contributions to maintain retirement and fringe benefits (i.e., health benefits and life insurance), either directly to the home institution or to the carrier. Appointments are usually made for a one-year period and may be extended for an additional year by mutual agreement. Please see the link for more information: <http://www.nsf.gov/careers/rotator/vsee.jsp>.

**Temporary Excepted Service Appointment:** Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Candidates who do not have civil service status or reinstatement eligibility will not obtain civil service status if selected. Candidates currently in the competitive service will be required to waive competitive civil service rights if selected. Usual civil service benefits (retirement, health benefits and life insurance) are applicable for appointments of more than one year. Temporary appointments may not exceed three years.

Persons wishing to apply for this position are referred to the Divisional web page, <http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?org=OCE>. For additional information on NSF's rotational programs, please see "Programs for Scientists, Engineers, and Educators" on the NSF website at: <http://www.nsf.gov/careers/> and <http://www.nsf.gov/careers/rotator/microsite/>.

Applications will be accepted from US Citizens. Recent changes in Federal Appropriations Law require Non-Citizens to meet certain eligibility criteria to be considered. Therefore, Non-Citizens must certify eligibility by signing and attaching this [Citizenship Affidavit](#) to their application. Non-citizens who do not provide the affidavit at the time of application will be considered as an IPA only. We also ask that you complete and submit the [Applicant Survey Form](#). This will help NSF to ensure that our recruiting efforts are attracting a diverse candidate pool; it will be used for statistical purposes only.

Applicants should indicate in their cover letter that they are applying for the Physical Oceanography Associate Program Director or Program Director position. Should you or your colleagues be interested in this position, please email a current CV accompanied by your cover letter highlighting the background that specifically relates to the position duties and requirements to:

Dr. Eric C. Itsweire  
Program Director  
Physical Oceanography Program  
Division of Ocean Sciences  
National Science Foundation  
Arlington, VA 22230  
703-292-8582  
Email: [eitsweir@nsf.gov](mailto:eitsweir@nsf.gov)

**NSF IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER COMMITTED TO EMPLOYING A  
HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF THAT REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF OUR NATION**